556 [888] [178] Our brief investigations indicated that neither seniority by age nor seniority by genealogical position is invariably an attribute of the men who today exercise power among local agnates or have influence in a wider local group. This may indicate recent cultural change. These men very often achieve and maintain such a position as men who are personally active in a wide range of affairs[1] (delegation of responsibility by issuing orders is sometimes spoken of as characteristic of the European system of leadership). They will be vigorous gardeners,[2] organize feasts and participate in a wide range of traditional exchanges, at the same time building a reputation as a man who has acquired material wealth, e.g., livestock and - to a lesser extent now than formerly - traditional valuables.

555 Not the least of their assets may be a reputation as a practitioner of 'white' magic, or as a dangerous man who has assiduously developed the skills of a sorcerer. The roles of 'big men' with these attributes may not be directly related to their age or genealogical status in a descent group. There are often several such dominant figures in a village.

621 The diffuse pattern of authority evident in villages in the neighbourhood under discussion may be ascribed partly to the fact that the present nucleated settlements are the culmination of a series of what the people feel to have been enforced amalgamations [622] of independent kin groups. Even before this process began no source of political cohesion existed in the form of inherited positions of authority commanding the continuing allegiance of sizeable local groups of dependents.

625 The expansion of villages to embrace more kin groups was accompanied by a proliferation of independent minor leaders in a single local group, not by the consolidation of positions of power. A patrol report of 1948 also revealed that the large Isivita, Isoge and Awala 'native districts' had received so little attention from the District Office nearby that the organization of villages under village constables had been allowed to deteriorate 'almost to chaos' since the Japanese occupation. 'One constable was found looking after eight scattered hamlets.'[3] Moreover in some cases migration seemed to have been so extensive that the areas of a number of constables overlapped.

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[595] [1] Cf. kiti jigari (p.30).

[2] Polygamists were able to maintain larger garden areas than other men. On the incidence of polygamy in the past see Williams 1930:130.

[3] Note that in 1924-5 among the Aiga 4 of the 10 village constables were each in charge of 6 or more villages.

[12] [464] assumptions on which the thesis is based warrant discussion at this stage. These are, one, that in the 'pure subsistence unit'

> What they produce is either consumed by themselves or goes to waste. Saving is limited to the storage of such necessities as can be stored as a reserve against a rainy day, a poor harvest or sickness, and to occasional preparation for increased consumption in feasts and ceremonial. Beyond that there is no incentive to save, or to produce at a level beyond their normal immediate consumption. The level of production is therefore subject to a very definite ceiling, which may be well below their potential capacity to produce, in that when they have produced sufficient of what they know how to produce to meet their immediate needs, there is no point in producing more. The production of a surplus beyond that requirement adds nothing to their satisfactions, present or future. (Fisk 1962:463)

and, two, that 'economic and ceremonial activity are distinct and separate':

[464] [433]

> Ceremonial activity and the preparations therefor we shall treat in the category of leisure activity, and as affecting economic activity only to the extent that certain amounts of leisure activity are socially regarded as necessary, and that the amounts of labour available for economic activities are socially limited thereby. (Fisk 1962:464)

556 [595] Power and prestige in New Guinea are dependent largely upon the control of goods and services. There is, ideally, no limit to the number of wives, pigs and gardens a man may have, and the more he has the greater the productive capacity of his particular subsistence unit. As his level of production increases, that part which is distributed as opposed to consumed increases disproportionately, and so the range and degree to which others are indebted to him increases. Not only does this serve to elevate his status but it [431] provides him with considerable security in times of stress and when making further investments. Insofar as the distributive system itself is concerned, ceremonial activities (although emphasised in the anthropological literature) may be less significant and time-consuming than informal gift-giving; although the principle of reciprocation is at the basis of both, specific goods and services do have exchange values so that they do not necessarily operate on a like-for-like basis. Thus the pattern tends towards a powerful (wealthy) individual distributing goods (foodstuffs) and being [437] reciprocated with services (labour). This has the effect of increasing his capacity to produce and so further elevating his [184] status. Political, social and economic behaviour are therefore inextricably connected and 'leisure' activities cannot be considered apart from the economic system. An example from the Orokaiva will serve to demonstrate the point.

583 is still transferred in most marriages, including those which take
177 place in church.
799

Polygyny was accepted but probably not frequent in traditional
595 Orokaiva society. In spite of mission opposition there are still
614 instances of polygyny but the great majority of marriages are
582 monogamous. Marriage outside the clan is considered preferable
[621] but there are numerous cases of marriage within the clan. The
591 village is not considered an exogamous unit. Marriages are usually patrilocal but this is not a definite rule (cf. Williams 1930:130-3).

III

584 In this particular marriage the groom lived in Inonda, a village of approximately 45 people about 11 miles from Popondetta.[1] His was the only family of the Jegotumo lineage of the Andiriha clan in Inonda, although there were others at Hohota I and Kakendetta.[2] The groom was the eldest child by his father's first wife. His mother died several years before his marriage and his father remarried. The father died six weeks before the marriage payment described here took place.

The groom attended Anglican mission schools for eight years and reached Standard V. He was baptized in 1958. In 1960, when he was about 16, he left school to train as a medical orderly at a mission hospital at Embi about ten miles from Inonda. In 1962 he returned to his father's household in Inonda and was employed by the government for $3 per week to tend the ford where the road from Popondetta to Oro Bay crossed the Girua river. He also assisted with the production of coffee, from which the household earned approximately $16.00 annually, and with the household's food gardens.

The bride attended mission schools for four years and reached Standard III but was not baptized. Her father, who died during World War II, had been the head of Joremba'embo lineage and of the Andiriha sub-clan in Inonda as well as headman of that village. After her father's death the bride went with her mother, elder sister and brother to live with her mother's elder brother at Ajoro village about five miles away. In 1948 a parallel cousin of her father was demobilized from the army and married her mother, thereby becoming her adoptive father (to be referred to hereafter simply as her father). Subsequently she lived in his household in Inonda

[TEXT CONTINUED ON PAGE 86]

[1] See map, p.84 A

[2] See diagram, p.85 A and Crocombe and Hogbin 1963:14-25.

A [See Category 102, p. 84--Analyst]

B [See Category 583, p. 85--Analyst]

593 further such lucrative young females. Of the six, two were Sivepe
592 women while the other four were women from other villages residing virilocally. A great many other families did not derive income in this way. Some of these, however, had daughters living in other villages, and their husbands too were sources of institutionalised gifts.

Though Waddell showed that the loss of adult male workers
464 through migration is already serious (37.8% in Sivepe and 25% in
433 Inonda), the point had not been reached when the loss of manpower led to a decline in the production from garden lands. Waddell may, however, be right in ascribing the increasing consumption of the inferior Xantosoma taro (see page 35 above)[A] to the deflection of the adult male labour force which had to support old people whose vigour
887 had declined. The older men did not stop work abruptly at a certain age; they would continue to go to their gardens, but the areas cultivated would become smaller; their children or young affines would help them. If an old man became widowed his daughter or daughter-in-law would cook food for him; in the case of a widow, uncooked food might be given, but most widows tend to live in a house where there are male relatives, the only two exceptions in the sample being the two widows
[463] who stayed in the old village of Sivepe. There are also activities which are a specialty of the old: they tend to be the village artists and also the village sorcerers. When we wanted to buy artifacts, it was the old men who made the ornaments, the old women who made the best pots and painted the best bark-cloth. Similarly, the most active curers in the village were two old men and one old woman.

I saw no evidence of polygamy currently practised. Marriages
595 were always consecrated at the time the couple was baptised. Several
585 people had at one time been divorced, but this was prior to the time
586 of baptism.

In Inonda, as I wrote earlier, no absent husbands sent money home. The only woman at Inonda whose husband was away from the village
464 was in jail, after breaking into a trade store with a hammer belonging to another man from Inonda. On the other hand, one man earned a living as a government driver, thus becoming more or less removed from the work in his subsistence and coffee gardens. Some other men took over his work, in return for appropriate counter gifts and services. In both villages, therefore, a pattern existed of outside earnings derived by a limited number of people whose garden work was taken over by other members of the village labour pool, while the money earnings were in one way or another widely shared among villagers.

Section 2: Division of Labour

The division of labour was the special subject of a study
114 carried out in Sivepe by my predecessor, Mr. Waddell. As he has been

464 A [See Cat. 116--Analyst]

astonishment about this kind of story, I was told in explanation that at the time of the eruption, the old people could not run away and the old people all died. For this reason, old customs and old knowledge died also; those who were left behind--the children who could run fast enough to escape--were forced to accept the new way of life as they knew no other.

This suggestion of an abrupt break in cultural tradition is of course in itself mythology. The continuity was obvious enough to the observer. Nonetheless, the belief in discontinuity was an important aspect of the modern Sangara self-group image. In the eruption, Sangara lost the people who used to make the decisions, who used to set patterns of behaviour. The survivors were forced to put the pieces together as best they could. Many customs vanished on the day of the eruption, e.g., polygyny; those customs which survive in Sivepe, however, mostly survived to some extent in Hohorita too. But when I asked my Hohorita informants whether father-in-law still chased his son-in-law with a firebrand this definitely appeared to be out of fashion. For traditional knowledge as well as custom, Sivepe was the repository of much that Hohorita had left behind. Almost all the mythology had been lost; the dancing was much inferior because the people were so much busier with their coffee; on the other hand, feasting ceremonial had remained mostly intact. Burial rites were no longer as Williams described them but very much the same as in Sivepe, i.e., the essentials were intact but a great deal of restraint had been introduced, the body was no longer dressed and laid out in the traditional manner and, most important of all, the widow was no longer expected to stay with the dead man after burial.

In matters of food, clothing, housing and village improvement, tools and skills I found most of the same features as in Sivepe. The differences I found were, to some extent, in the greater availability of money, in the larger number of educated people, the larger number of persons who had migrated to towns where they held skilled jobs, the intensive contact between this educated élite outside the village and the educated élite inside it, and as a result, as far greater awareness of ideological and political issues than could be found in Sivepe. Stephen, the government driver at Inonda, had a sophistication comparable to this educated group at Hohorita, but he was alone and exchanged ideas only when he was in Popondetta, away from the village where wider political and ideological ideas would have aroused little interest.

Section 4: Leadership in Hohorita

At the time of my arrival at Hohorita, the traditional leader, a man called Amos, had recently died. After his death, he was revered with much ceremony. Thus, during my stay, a naterari (Williams: 1930: 226) was set up, i.e., a post to taboo the coconuts and betelnuts

731 Immediately after the eruption, the Sangara people decided to
[583] waive all bridewealth, so that a large percentage of the women in
Hohorita were married without one. At the present time, bridewealth
[464] is reinstated, and young men go to neighbouring plantations, which are
plentiful--or else further abroad--to earn them. While many husbands
worked outside Hohorita, most of them were able to return home at
●[595] weekends. Polygamy was pronounced before the eruption, but it seems
that the polygamists became victims of the eruption and polygamy no
longer exists as a recognised institution.

871 If the average educational standard at Hohorita is slightly
above that of Sivepe, the reasons are: better facilities during the
years 1945-1951, loss of many members of the older age groups in the
eruption, special efforts made by Bishop Hand at Irihambo to draw
Sangara into mission teaching. This higher standard is reflected in
the statistics of persons who at one time or another have been in
skilled occupations. (Table 21)[A] The persons who returned to Hohorita
434 did so with the express idea of making some money out of coffee; the
average income from coffee in Hohorita is certainly far in excess of
that in Sivepe (about $100 per annum).

891 Hohorita does feel that it is held back by the present educational
provisions which are little better than those in Inonda and much
inferior to those at Sasembata. (At Hohorita, there is no schooling
beyond Standard 3, whereas Sasembata goes up to Standard 6.) Hohorita
people compare the school unfavourably with the government school at
the Sangara resettlement block which offers Standard 6, and which,
furthermore, has more highly qualified teachers on the staff. My
own impression was that the head teacher at Hohorita is a very good
man; some of the criticism of him is no doubt due to spite, for he is
of local origin. Still, the general criticism of facilities at
Hohorita is not unjust.

621 Hohorita is less homogeneous in ethnic origin than the other
563 villages discussed, as the population is drawn from different parts
592 of the Sangara tribe and intermarriage with other tribes has been
frequent. The explanation may be found in the pressure, after the
disaster, to find mates when most preferred potential marriage partners
had died in the eruption. This breaking down of the endogamous emphasis
after wars and disasters is, as I pointed out earlier, traditional
among the Orokaiva.

423 Heterogeneity was countered to some extent by an arrangement
591 which was, according to informants, made by a popular meeting shortly
after the eruption. According to this arrangement women who married
582 outside Sangara, would be allowed the same land rights as though
they had been sons. This was done in an effort, so I was told, to add
to the depleted Sangara population. Men would thus be encouraged to
settle on Sangara land rather than take their Sangara wives home with
them. Two men from the Sasembata district are now living in Hohorita
under this arrangement. They keep up normal exchange relations with
their home district, e.g., I know one of them lent hambo for the kere

A [See Cat. 116, p. 228--Analyst]